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FEWER HUNTERS LICENSED IN 1931

A half-million fewer hunting licenses were issued in the United States, including Alaska, last year than in the previous year, which set a record. Some States, however, issued more licenses, reports the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Authorities on conditions in the various localities, the bureau suggests, may perhaps explain the variations from previous years as due to the depression, to the drought of 1930, to changes in license fees, or to other causes.

Statistics furnished by the States and tabulated by the bureau for the calendar year 1931 (in some cases for the State fiscal year or season ending in 1931) show the number of hunting licenses as 6,342,626, a drop of 561,308 from the 1930 total of 6,903,934 and a slight decrease from the 6,428,761 reported for 1929. For 23 States, as indicated in the bureau's tabulation, the reports include combined hunting and fishing licenses, but separately issued fishing licenses are not included in the summary.

Hunting-license revenues received by the States also declined last year, dropping from \$10,017,564.43 to \$9,867,352.63. Owing to increases in the fees in some States, however, the revenue was nearly \$500,000 greater than the receipts of \$9,391,412.33 for 1929.

As in previous years New York with 580,933 resident and nonresident licenses yielding \$1,108,604.54, and Pennsylvania with 536,401 yielding \$1,095,025.30, are at the head of the list. Of the 16 States licensing more than 1,000 nonresident and alien hunters, Pennsylvania was first with 6,009. New York and Maine followed with 4,395 and 4,050, respectively.

In 33 States resident hunting licenses decreased in number. In 26 of these the decrease followed an increase the preceding year, and 9 of the 26 were still above the 1929 figure. The numbers increased in 13 States. In 7 of these the increase followed a decrease, and in 8 of them the 1931 number was greater than that for 1929. Figures for Mississippi were not available for any of the years, nor for Tennessee in 1930.

The 17 States showing a decrease below the 1929 figure, although they had shown an increase for 1930, are Alabama, Colorado, Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.

The 9 States in which there were decreases from the 1930 figures but in which more licenses were issued last year than in 1929 are Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah, and Wisconsin.

The numbers decreased both last year and the preceding year in 7 States--Arkansas, California, Missouri, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota--while the numbers increased both years in 6 States--Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Montana, New Mexico, and Ohio.

After falling off in 1930, the number of licenses issued in 7 States increased in 1931. In 2 of these (Pennsylvania and Vermont) the increase more than offset the preceding decrease, while in the others (Connecticut, Georgia, New Hampshire, Texas, and Wyoming) the new figure is still below that for 1929.

In Alaska, where only nonresident and alien licenses are issued, the number has decreased both years.

The accompanying tabulation by States, the bureau explains, is complete for all States except Mississippi, for which the figures, as in preceding years, are not available. Figures are for 1931 or for the State fiscal year or season ending in the calendar year 1931. The Pennsylvania returns, however, are for a 16-month period--May 1, 1930, to August 31, 1931. Entries marked with an asterisk (*) include combined hunting and fishing licenses, but no separate licenses for fishing are shown in the tabulation. Alaska does not require a license for a resident hunter.

<u>State</u>	<u>Resident license</u>	<u>Nonresident or alien license</u>	<u>Money Returns</u>
Alaska	- - -	198	\$ 13,290.00
Alabama	79,381	199	110,530.05
Arizona	26,978*	291*	75,395.00*
Arkansas	62,946	1,033	78,426.60
California	212,876	1,466	423,718.50
Colorado	100,655*	197	218,606.75*
Connecticut	30,548*	513*	115,988.00*
Delaware	1,686*	113	3,390.00*
Florida	47,670	566	119,644.00
Georgia	48,010	168	85,646.00
Idaho	88,275*	505*	173,446.25*
Illinois	302,458	843	239,488.50
Indiana	304,444*	342*	279,261.80*
Iowa	279,383*	246	283,073.00*
Kansas	130,474	130	131,384.00
Kentucky	84,699	218	74,174.15
Louisiana	95,494	275	102,469.00
Maine	108,205*	4,050	113,240.00*
Maryland	60,684	1,432	115,475.55
Massachusetts	111,192*	2,855*	291,238.60*
Michigan	302,058	1,253	646,476.00
Minnesota	183,974	195	170,051.60
Missouri	197,118*	558*	244,087.70*
Montana	94,816*	167	163,121.80*
Nebraska	182,453*	506	187,509.00*
Nevada	5,866	53	15,195.00
New Hampshire	54,903*	2,309*	136,213.60*
New Jersey	191,848*	1,404*	273,003.60*
New Mexico	19,654*	1,741*	98,540.50*
New York	576,538*	4,395*	1,108,604.54*
North Carolina	106,973	1,077	177,100.38
North Dakota	26,312	65	45,721.40
Ohio	455,518	71	456,583.00
Oklahoma	89,416	516	92,075.50
Oregon	64,056*	445	225,981.00*
Pennsylvania	530,392	6,009	1,095,025.30
Rhode Island	2,702	203	19,654.00
South Carolina	89,118	1,596	146,706.00
South Dakota	67,845	739	86,320.00
Tennessee	45,087	126	68,087.72
Texas	113,121	511	220,515.85
Utah	46,581*	381*	102,427.80*
Vermont	42,871*	1,211*	61,450.85*
Virginia	137,312*	2,074*	239,777.00*
Washington	201,798*	2,287*	351,285.95*
West Virginia	91,753*	209*	151,447.50*
Wisconsin	171,615	120	157,453.39
Wyoming	22,635*	374*	79,050.90*
Total	6,296,391*	46,235*	\$ 9,867,352.63*

Six States since the last annual summary was tabulated have submitted reports for two periods-- for 1930 and 1931. Only the figures for 1931 were used in the current tabulation. The 1930 figures, including combined hunting and fishing licenses for Indiana, New York, Utah, and Washington but representing only separate hunting licenses for Florida and Kentucky, are as follows:

<u>State</u>	<u>Resident license</u>	<u>Nonresident or alien license</u>	<u>Money Returns</u>
Florida	53,155	623	\$ 134,060.00
Indiana	318,534	415	292,905.00
Kentucky	106,151	395	94,178.00
New York	701,456	4,961	728,992.65
Utah	48,227	262	106,079.30
Washington	207,852	3,697	377,945.00

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